

Strengthening (AREA) Breakout Session

Session I

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Session II

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Types of NRI Research Proposals

- Standard Research Grants
- Conferences
- Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (AREA)
 - New Investigator Awards
 - Postdoctoral Fellowships
 - “Strengthening” Awards
 - Standard Strengthening
 - Research Career Enhancement Awards (Sabbatical Awards)
 - Equipment Grants
 - Seed Grants

AREA Awards

New Investigator Awards:

- Eligibility:
 - ❖ <5 years career-track experience;
 - ❖ May not have received competitively awarded Federal research funds beyond pre- and post-doctoral grants and CSREES NRI seed grants
 - ❖ Only the PD has to meet eligibility requirements
- Submit proposal to NRI program that is best scientific fit
- Proposals reviewed with all other proposals submitted to that program
- May be funded if ranked below cutoff



AREA Awards

Postdoctoral Fellowships:

- Must be U.S. citizen
- Ph.D. granted January 1, 2005 – no later than 9 months after FY 2008 proposal submission due date
- Submit proposal to NRI program that is best scientific fit
- Proposals reviewed with all other standard proposals submitted to that program
- Funded with 10% of NRI funds set aside for Postdoctoral Fellowships and Strengthening awards unless proposal is ranked above cutoff

Postdoctoral Fellowships (continued)

- \$125,000 for two years
- \$2,400/year institutional allowance; no indirect costs
- Project may fit in the context of mentor's research area, but should initiate the postdoc's independent research program, rather than serve as extension of ongoing projects in mentor's lab



AREA Awards

Research Career Enhancement Awards (Sabbatical Awards)

- Provides one year's salary, travel, supplies
- “Mini-sabbaticals” also encouraged
 - ❖ short term training to learn new techniques
 - ❖ short courses
- Letters from home institution and host required
- PD may have received an NRI grant previously
- 7-page limit

AREA Awards

Seed Grants

- Limited to \$100,000 over 2 years
- To enable investigators to collect preliminary data in preparation for a standard research grant
- Not intended to fund stand-alone projects but rather projects that will lead to further research in one of the NRI program areas
- PD may have received an NRI grant previously
- Only PD has to meet eligibility requirements
- 7-page limit

AREA Awards

Equipment Grants

- One major piece of equipment within the cost range of \$10,000-\$250,000
- USDA will provide half of the cost or \$50,000, whichever is less (the only NRI program that requires matching)
- Matching letter(s) required in the proposal (non-Federal funds; no in-kind matching)
- Matching requirement waived under certain circumstances
- 7-page limit

AREA Awards

Strengthening Standard Research Projects

- Full-fledged standard research proposal (18-page limit)
- Competes with all other standard proposals in the panel
- Funded with 10% set-aside unless proposal is ranked above cutoff
- PD may have received an NRI grant previously
- Only PD has to meet eligibility requirements

AREA Awards

- All AREA proposals are submitted to NRI programs that are best scientific fit
- No separate review panels for AREA proposals
- 7-page proposals (sabbatical, seed, equipment) are compared with each other; separate from standard proposals; funded with 10% set-aside
- 18-page proposals (new investigators, postdocs, standard strengthening) are compared with all other standard proposals; funded with 10% set-aside except new investigators and proposals ranked above cutoff

Strengthening Awards

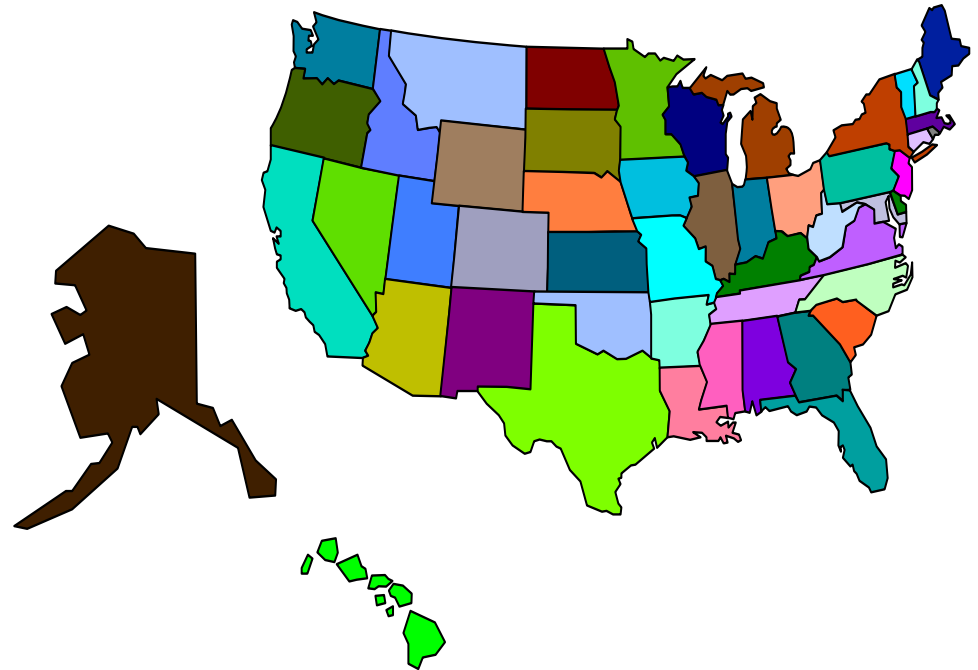
Who is eligible? *

- 1) Small & mid-sized institutions w/ limited institutional success:
 - < 15,000 students AND
 - Not among most successful universities for receiving Federal funds
- 2) Faculty at Institutions in USDA EPSCoR States
Experimental **P**rogram for **S**timulating **C**ompetitive **R**esearch

* Different rules apply for equipment grants

USDA EPSCoR States:

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| AL | LA | OK |
| AK | ME | SC |
| AR | NJ | SD |
| DE | NV | VT |
| HI | NM | WV |
| ID | ND | WY |
| KY | | |



+ DC, GU, PR, VI, FM, MP,
AS, MH

EPSCoR States for FY 2006-2008

- Removed from the list: CT, MS, NH, RI
- Added to the list: DE, LA, NJ, SC
- Re-calculated every three years
 - Funding level from the NRI no higher than the 38th percentile of all states
 - Based on total funding from the previous 3 year period (excluding set-aside strengthening funds)

Strengthening Awards

Eligibility For Equipment Grants:

Institution must be degree granting and not among the “Top 100” most successful universities and colleges receiving federal funds for science and engineering research and development

Strengthening rules are very complicated. Please refer to the flow chart to determine eligibility or ask your National Program Leader.

Bridge Grants

- For integrated projects
- To assist small, mid-sized and minority-serving institutions that have not been successful in obtaining NRI grants
- One-time infusion of up to \$100,000
- May not apply directly for bridge grants

Minority-serving institution: enrollment of 1 or more minority groups exceeds 50% of total